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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the blockade of the River Danube caused by barges from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which has been brought to the attention of the Security Council already on 26 February 1993. This illegal blockade is still in place, resulting in a complete halt to navigation on the Danube and a complete interruption of the Danube/Black Sea traffic. This blockade causes severe economic damage to Austria and to the other Danubian countries.

The action taken by the Yugoslav barges constitutes a breach of international law and an unacceptable act of retaliation against those countries that are duly implementing Security Council resolutions 757 (1992) and 787 (1992).

Austria therefore requests the Security Council to take necessary measures in order to remedy this intolerable situation. Austria considers that the international community should not accept the behaviour of a State that not only does not implement Security Council resolutions, but also tries - through illegal countermeasures - actively to defy and frustrate them.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter HOHENFELLNER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations